



CIRCULATION VERIFICATION COUNCIL



The Villager



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RAPPIN' Tommy Wyatt

Getting Ready for our 44th Anniversary.

It appears that we are headed for another anniversary. On May 12, 2017 we will publish our 44th Anniversary issue of THE VILLAGER. In that issue we will make an attempt to review our many years of covering the Austin community with an emphasis on African Americans. Then we will dive head on into our 45th year.

We invite the community to tell us some of your special stories that have been covered by The Villager. Just send the information to us by mail or email (No calls please). It is important that you give us the date of the issue, as close as you can remember. I am sure that you understand that it is almost impossible for me to remember each story by time and date.

During our years of covering this community, we have seen the many changes that have occurred and evolution of the city. We have also had the honor of working with many of our leaders – both past and present.

One of the more enjoyable programs that we did for many years was the one to honor our "Living Legends." This program reintroduced many of the people who contributed so much to this community and made great contributions towards moving our community forward. Unfortunately, most of those men and women are no longer with us, but many others have taken their places.

Our current program that we have been involved with for the last 30 plus years is our YOUTH BRIGADE PROGRAM. Through this program we can keep the community connected, although it is more spread out than ever.

The deadline to submit information to be included in the May 12, 2017 issue is May 5. We know that you will understand that we will not be able to include everyone, but we will make every effort to include as many as possible. We are looking forward to our upcoming Anniversary issue.

City of Austin unveils the Richard Overton Healing Garden



By Rep. Lloyd Doggett - Austin, TX - It is with the utmost gratitude, respect and humble admiration that we gathered to honor the oldest living combat US veteran, Richard Arvine Overton. Mr. Overton, who turned 111, served in the US Army Air Force and worked for many years for the State of Texas. At the recommendation of Councilmember Ora Houston, we worked together to find a way to honor Mr. Overton at the Austin VA Outpatient Clinic and I am so pleased that we were able to unveil the 'Richard Overton Healing Garden.'

Experience the Electrifying Music of Lady Day at Emerson's Bar & Grill

By Naomi Richard | VILLAGER Columnist



CHANEL plays Lady Day at Zach Scott Theatre. PHOTO CREDIT: Kirk Tuck

Austin, TX - ZACH Theatre presents *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill*, a biographical play-set-to-music, transforms the Topfer Theatre into a nightclub with an on-stage bar including VIP cabaret table seating April 5 – April 30, 2017. *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill* is directed by Michael Rader and stars CHANEL (A Christmas Carol and Sophisticated Ladies) as the songstress herself in the role of Billie Holiday.

The year is 1959 and the time is around midnight. The place is a bar in South Philadelphia. The audience is about to witness one of Billie Holiday's

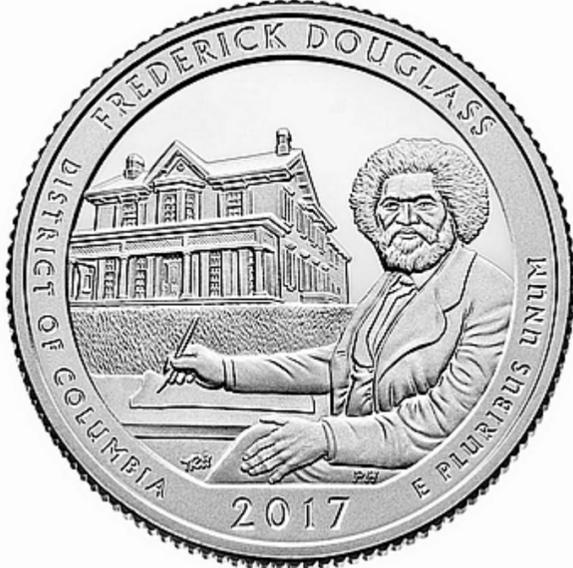
last performances, given four months before her death. More than a dozen musical numbers are interlaced with salty, often humorous, reminiscences to project a riveting portrait of the lady and her music. Enjoy an intimate evening with the jazz legend. "God Bless the Child," "Strange Fruit," and "My Man" are among the unforgettable hits you will savor from the lady who sings the blues.

A round of applause for the casting director who nailed the cast for this intimate night of historic music. Leading lady CHANEL first made a grand impression on us while a

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Frederick Douglass Featured on New Quarter

by: Lenore T. Adkins Special to the AFRO



Frederick Douglass, the abolitionist who escaped slavery and later served as a statesman and civil rights leader, graces the back of a quarter that the U.S. Mint recently released into circulation.

The image depicts Douglass seated at a writing desk with his historic Washington, D.C. home, Cedar Hill, in the background. The home, now preserved as the Frederick Douglass National Historic

Site, is in the Anacostia neighborhood.

The inscriptions on the Douglass side of the coin read: "Frederick Douglass," "District of Columbia," "2017" and "E Pluribus Unum." The reverse side of the coin shows the standard 1932 portrait of George Washington.

Born a slave in Maryland, Douglass taught him-

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The Center for Health Empowerment's Open House



The Center for Health Empowerment's Open House on April 8th was a great success, thanks in part to our enthusiastic volunteers and attendees (Council Member Ora Houston, center, pictured with the Center's CEO, Byron Marshall). Activities of the day included tours of the Center, delicious food, rockin' music and free manicures. The Center for Health Empowerment's services are free of charge, make your appointment today! www.austinchc.org



INSIDE



Community activist increases access to multicultural education. See OVERTON Page 2



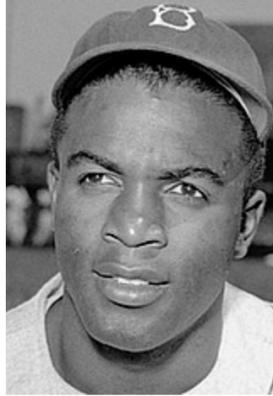
Central Texas native, Odessa Jackson turns 105. See HAPPY Page 3



Congressman Castro revisits the burden of affordable healthcare. See WILCO Page 6

Sliding Home: Jackie Robinson Gets Statue at Dodger Stadium

by: Beth Harris AP Sports Writer



Jackie Robinson LOS ANGELES (AP) — He was the first Black to play in the major leagues, ending six decades of racial segregation, and a first-ballot Hall of Famer.

Fittingly, Jackie Robinson is the first to be honored with a statue at Dodger Stadium. It was unveiled Saturday on the 70th anniversary of his debut with the Brooklyn Dodgers.

The 77-inch tall bronze statue depicts Robinson as a rookie in 1947 sliding into home plate, a nod to his aggressive base running.

It stands in the left field reserve plaza, with sweeping views of downtown Los Angeles in one direction and Elysian Park in the other. The location was chosen because it's where the majority of fans enter the hillside ballpark that opened 55 years ago.